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LETTER DATED 15 APRIL 1994 FROM THE DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The situation in the "safe area" of Gorazde has once again deteriorated, despite the very serious statements of the Security Council reaffirming its insistence that all of its relevant resolutions, 824 (1993) and 836 (1993) in particular, be respected. Serbian forces have refused to respond to the call, addressed to "all the parties, and in particular the Bosnian Serb party", to allow UNPROFOR unimpeded freedom of movement, and to refrain from any further actions which could threaten the safety of UNPROFOR personnel (S/PRST/1994/19). They have not released their hostages - detained UNPROFOR personnel - but in fact have taken new hostages. Finally, they have reintensified their attack on the safe area of Gorazde, causing new high civilian casualties.

According to information from our sources, which we expect to be confirmed by United Nations military observers on the ground, Serbian forces have captured Gradina, a hill that dominates the whole area of Gorazde and enables a clear firing position into the city. One other important military position, Trebisko brdo, is expected to fall as well. These forces have used their newly captured positions as well as those that they were called to withdraw from previously, to fire directly into Gorazde and civilian targets with impunity.

Before these latest military activities, the confirmed civilian death toll of the Serbian advances has been at least 208 killed and more than 800 others were wounded. We cannot as yet ascertain today's casualties.

According to other reliable sources, it is reported that forces from the so-called Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) are engaged in this offensive. These reports state that since 26 March, large Serbian-Montenegrin military formations have been moving and continue to move, along with military equipment, towards the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, en route to Gorazde. They have crossed the Sanjak cities of Pljevlje and Priboj on the Bosnian border. On 26 and 27 March alone, 60 buses, crowded with armed Serbian-Montenegrin soldiers, 70 lorries transporting weaponry, and 17 tanks following this formation, were observed moving through the village of Gradac in the municipality of Pljevlje. At the same time, in the village of Uvac in the municipality of Priboj, 22 tanks coming from Uzice (Serbia) were observed, and

in the villages of Sjeverja and Javorje, large formations of infantry forces were reported. Mass mobilization of Serbs and Montenegrins in Sanjak is under way, in order to conduct the offensive against Gorazde.

We request the Council to urgently consider the latest developments in and around Gorazde in light of the above reports, and to respond as to why, despite its clear mandate in relevant resolutions, it has succumbed to the violations of its provisions and, in so doing, has in effect given the go-ahead to Serbian forces to further defy the resolve of the international community and its resolutions and appeals.

May I ask for your kind assistance in circulating this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ivan Z. MISIC
Deputy Permanent Representative